

10-28-1879

Letter from Adeline Manning, to Anne Whitney, 1879 October 28

Adeline Manning

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11 o'clock Friday a.m. I drop this in the box. Tomorrow night we are to go to the Cent. Fields.

Thursday Oct 27/79 [= 28th]

My Anne, what a beautiful mystery you are, to be sure! Why could you not have indicated, at least, the nature of the "green things," whether they relate to work, or house, or friends, or philosophy, or what? You might rough it out in a few words. Is it good or bad or indifferent? Does it offend anybody? & whom? Shall you not have forgotten all about it when I come?

This morning Aunt & I were to have gone to Elizabeth to spend the day with Miss Webb. Though the atmosphere intermittently there seemed certain promise of a fair day: but the undeveloped storm was fully developed in Aunt's spine breathing; she was not able to go: & now we have a settled storm that began at noon with thunder & lightning & hail. In a note, Miss Webb mentions having just seen your name in the Tribune, & asks me to give you her congratulations, individually. & as a woman appreci-

ciator. - The news from Sarah makes
my eastern prospect cloudless. Long
may it remain so. The panels of
intuents at 92, the play going, the
seeing of different friends, finishing the
boat, & the mystery, are subsiding
even at this distance. Has Ellen R.
been spending the week with you? or
was it only that night?

We were glad enough of a journey
on a Sunday. I went to bed Saturday
night in a flannel night gown, under
three blankets, a thick comforter & feather
bed, & as these had failed to keep
me warm the night before, I added
a bottle of hot water, & slept very
comfortably. You think I had taken
cold? not a bit; never had less.

I like what you say about Mr
Hunt; but think if you had studied
coloring under him, & under Couture
you would not have said that the
"Cattle deepened the same old stamp."
Little can be judged from the results
in those who were for years under
Hunt, & only weeks under Couture.

except with regard to color the remarks may be true: but I think it was in that particularly that H's pupils hoped for help from Comte. He insisted just & cast upon paucity of color, wh. Hunt neglected altogether. If his pupils failed to get it it was not C.'s fault.

I should like to see the Woman's Journal but do not know where to get it here. The N. A. I hope to see too. To judge from a slight synopsis of the replies in it - to Parkman. That by Phillips must be much the most effectual & to the point.

In the Letters on Modern England XIX Cent. there are some good things: & a reference to the relation of English positivism to Comte. In the 14 vol. of the Psychology, wh. is on our bookshelves, there is, on page 465, a note on wh. Spencer refers to his "adoption of the development hypothesis." & a reference to the "vestiges of Creation" wh. may interest you: & if you begin to read

in that part of the book. I should
not wonder if you kept on.

The word you could not read in
my letter is hot.

Sarah writes that she shall not come
down till the 21st & she wants us
all there on Thanksgiving day. We
expect that it is more appropriate
for the children to come home on
Thanksgiving. & I do not know how
it will end. Mother's dislike of these
keeping cases, I think will help us to
quell.

Thurs. Ev. Mother showed me tonight
your first letter to her, after you went to
Phila. from here. Would it you like to
see it? Do you remember that night,
on our way to Paris the last time, how
you cutted a sandwich at Calais, &
escaped without detection? There was
no time, you protested, to pay for it, &
you were half famished. It was in
one of my old letters I found that. You
may surmise that we do nothing here
but read old letters; Ah. is not altogether

little game with about - Good night; my love.

the case. We have the elections very much
under consideration now. Politics in this
State are worse mixed up than in almost
any honest man like my Father has
serious difficulty in voting. The good
Republicans are all dissatisfied with this
nominee for governor - & the question
arises about the morality of "scratching"
Some think it a duty to express their
disapprobation of the party managers,
by scratching the name of Cornell, &
voting all the rest of the ticket, thereby
to show that ^{they} are Republicans, but not
to be controlled by Conkling. & others
think it a ~~sin~~ ^{crime} to "scratch". Cutler
took high & independent ground
at the Convention; & he alone opposed
the unanimous nomination of Cornell.
& he upholds & inspects; & insists on
the small party men are working for
reform of the party. Then city poli-
tics are as ~~confused~~ ^{confused} as state politics,
& it is hard to say which of the candi-
dates is most worthy to be Mayor.

On what day do you vote? & for
whom do you vote, my Comrade?

Yesterday about & I made out

mail to Elizabeth. The day was a
fine one, sunny & warm. I inquired the
Countess, for quite to my surprise, he
found the house in the suburbs
of the town. Miss Webb is full of interest
in good works. It is a long time since
I have seen her, but she changed very
little. Almost as usual bore the
journey very well; but I almost
wished once or twice that I had
not undertaken it. She was, for a
few minutes after a slight hurry,
so out of breath; & once, after step-
ping from the boat to the wharf, the
bridge being pretty steep. We shall
not make any more visits out of
Brooklyn this fall.

Think of having the Reading En-
glish Journals for 20 cts. a piece!
What will become of our own ^{magazines} ~~magazines~~?
The pictured ones may survive, but
I sh^d think the 50 ct. ones, &
magazines must perish. I sup-
pose you know that the Evolu-
tion Philosophy has been complete-

ly demolished by Harvard's Prof.
Borren. It will save us the trouble
of giving it further consideration.

But what, my dear, can that sug-
gest be? That thing we are to talk over
by & bye? ~~Then you feel that it will~~
^{Forgetting} be just four weeks from the day I
came away, or just the same number
of weeks from the day after Thanks-
giving - and twenty years ago - or
what day the day after Thanksgiving
fell, who can tell? What can tell?
unless the letter you wrote to Sarah
or to Miss Shannon just before, or
just after our eyes met on the
threshold of your new abode, my
dear!

Do you remember that last year
I bought a pair of blankets, not
knowing that you had plenty?
They seemed to be quite too much,
now with me less so they will be
still more so. So unless you see
some reason wh. makes it desir-

able to keep them; it will be well
to be rid of them, & as Mother was
about to buy I offered them to her.
Can she make do them up, & send
them by express? They were in
a long linen case hanging in the
guest room closet - Two new
blankets marked with ill. or
III. If they could be left in the case,
perhaps it wd. be well; at any rate
he shd buy some large sheets of
stout paper - that there may be no
danger of making & getting the blan-
kets soiled. Or if he does not understand
it; he could take them to Honeys: they
will bought them, & they would be willing
to do them up properly & express them -
If they are any less than 2 yds wide
do not send them.

Do you know anything of the parties
of Edwin Arnold? - I am very sorry
you could not have the visit with the
Bantros. I hope they soon return & that
you may see much of them & of many
other friends. Give my love to Mrs Chapman,
& Mrs Child. I do not say another thing.

Chapman is better. I hope so. Father & Mother are out. I must have a

little game with Stuart - Good night; my love.

11 o'clock Friday a.m. I drop this in the box. Tomorrow night we are to go to a
family party at the Sene Fields.